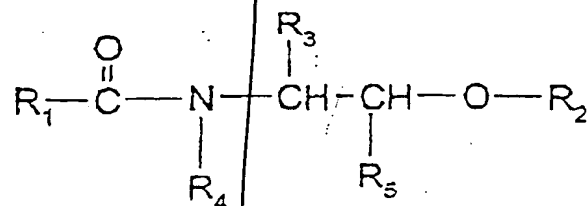


CLAIMS

1. A liquid cosmetic composition,
characterized in that it comprises, in a cosmetically
acceptable aqueous medium, at least one liquid fatty
5 alcohol, at least one ceramide-type compound and at
least one cationic surfactant.

2. The composition as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the ceramide-type compound
corresponds to the general formula (I):



10

in which:

- R₁ denotes:

- either a saturated or unsaturated, linear
or branched, C₁-C₅₀, preferably C₅-C₅₀, hydrocarbon
15 radical, it being possible for this radical to be
substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups optionally
esterified by an acid R₇COOH, R₇ being an optionally
mono- or polyhydroxylated, linear or branched,
saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ hydrocarbon radical, it
20 being possible for the hydroxyl(s) of the R₇ radical to
be esterified by an optionally mono- or
polyhydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or
unsaturated, C₁-C₃₅ fatty acid;

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- or a radical $R''-(NR-CO)-R'$, R denotes a hydrogen atom or a mono or polyhydroxylated, preferably monohydroxylated, C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon radical, R' and R'' are hydrocarbon radicals of which the sum of the carbon
5 atoms is between 9 and 30, R' being a divalent radical;

- or a radical $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, R_8 denotes a C_1-C_{20} hydrocarbon radical, p is an integer varying from 1 to 12;

- R_2 is chosen from a hydrogen atom, a saccharide-type
10 radical, in particular a (glycosyl) $_n$, (galactosyl) $_m$ or sulfogalactosyl radical, a sulfate or phosphate residue, a phosphorylethylamine radical and a phosphorylethylammonium radical, in which n is an integer varying from 1 to 4 and m is an integer varying
15 from 1 to 8;

- R_3 denotes a hydrogen atom or a hydroxylated or nonhydroxylated, saturated or unsaturated, C_1-C_{33} hydrocarbon radical, it being possible for the hydroxyl(s) to be esterified by an inorganic acid or an
20 acid R_7COOH , R_7 having the same meanings as above, it being possible for the hydroxyl(s) to be etherified by a (glycosyl) $_n$, (galactosyl) $_m$, sulfogalactosyl, phosphorylethylamine or phosphorylethylammonium radical, it being also possible for R_3 to be substituted
25 with one or more C_1-C_{14} alkyl radicals;
preferably, R_3 denotes a $C_{15}-C_{26}$ α -hydroxyalkyl radical, the hydroxyl group being optionally esterified by a $C_{16}-C_{30}$ α -hydroxy acid;

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- R_4 denotes a hydrogen atom, a methyl or ethyl radical, an optionally hydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C_3 - C_{50} hydrocarbon radical, a radical $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-R_6$ in which R_6 denotes a C_{10} - C_{26} hydrocarbon radical or a radical $R_8-O-CO-(CH_2)_p$, R_8 denotes a C_1 - C_{20} hydrocarbon radical, p is an integer varying from 1 to 12,
- R_5 denotes a hydrogen atom or an optionally mono- or polyhydroxylated, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C_1 - C_{30} hydrocarbon radical, it being possible for the hydroxyl(s) to be etherified by a (glycosyl) $_n$, (galactosyl) $_m$, sulfogalactosyl, phosphorylethylamine or phosphorylethylammonium radical;
- with the proviso that when R_3 and R_5 denote hydrogen or when R_3 denotes hydrogen and R_5 denotes methyl, then R_4 does not denote a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl radical.

3. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the ceramide-type compound is chosen from the group consisting of:

- 2-(N-linoleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-oleoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,
- 2-(N-behenoylamino)-1,3-octadecanediol,

- 2-[N-(2-hydroxypalmitoyl)amino]-1,3-octadecanediol,

- 2-(N-stearoylamino)-1,3,4-octadecanetriol,

- 2-(N-palmitoylamino)-1,3-hexadecanediol,

5 or mixtures of these compounds.

4. The composition as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the ceramide-type compound is chosen from bis(N-hydroxyethyl-N-cetyl)malonamide, N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-(3-cetyloxy-2-
10 hydroxypropyl)amide of cetylic acid and N-docosanoyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine.

5. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the ceramide-type compound(s) are present in concentrations
15 ranging from 0.0001 to 20% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition and preferably from 0.001 to 10% by weight and more preferably between 0.005 and 3% by weight.

6. The composition as claimed in any one of
20 the preceding claims, characterized in that the liquid fatty alcohols are chosen from lauryl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, isomyristyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, isocetyl alcohol, isoarachidyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, 2-butyloctanol and oleyl alcohol, and
25 mixtures thereof.

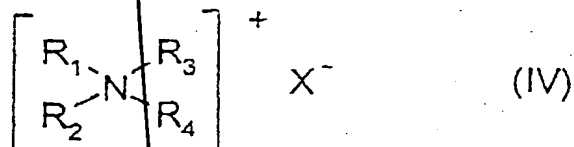
7. The composition as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the fatty

alcohol is chosen from isostearyl alcohol and isocetyl alcohol.

8. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the concentration of liquid fatty alcohols varies between 0.5% and 10% by weight approximately relative to the total weight of the composition, and preferably between 1 and 10% approximately and more preferably still between 1.5 and 3% by weight.

9. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said cationic surfactant is chosen from:

A) the quaternary ammonium salts of the following general formula (IV):



in which X is an anion chosen from the group comprising halides (chloride, bromide or iodide) or (C₂-C₆)alkyl sulfates, more particularly methyl sulfate, phosphates, alkyl or alkylaryl sulfonates, anions derived from an organic acid such as acetate or lactate, and

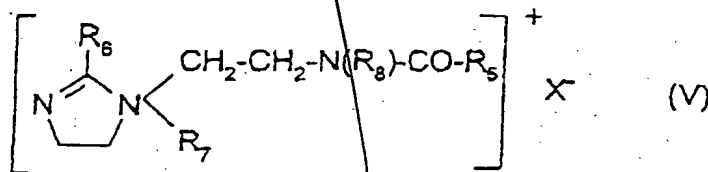
i) the radicals R₁ to R₃, which may be identical or different, represent a linear or branched aliphatic radical comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an aromatic radical such as aryl or alkylaryl. The

aliphatic radicals may comprise heteroatoms such as in particular oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur or halogens, R_4 denotes a linear or branched alkyl radical comprising from 20 to 30 carbon atoms.

- 5 ii) the radicals R_1 and R_2 , which may be identical or different, represent a linear or branched aliphatic radical comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an aromatic radical such as aryl or alkylaryl. The aliphatic radicals may comprise heteroatoms such as in
 10 particular oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur or halogens. The aliphatic radicals are for example chosen from alkyl, alkoxy, alkylamide and hydroxyalkyl radicals comprising from about 1 to 4 carbon atoms;
 R_3 and R_4 , which are identical or different, denote a
 15 linear or branched alkyl radical comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, said radical comprising at least one ester or amide functional group.

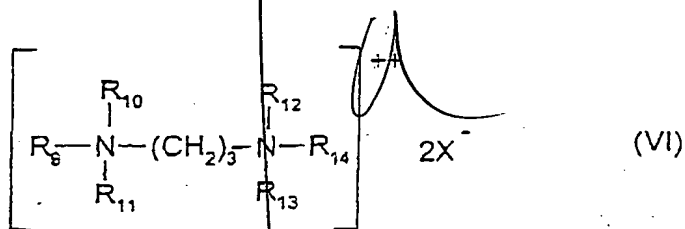
R_3 and R_4 are in particular chosen from
 (C₁₂-C₂₂)alkylamido(C₂-C₆)alkyl and (C₁₂-C₂₂)alkyl acetate
 20 radicals.

B) - the quaternary ammonium salts of imidazolinium, such as for example that of the following formula (V):



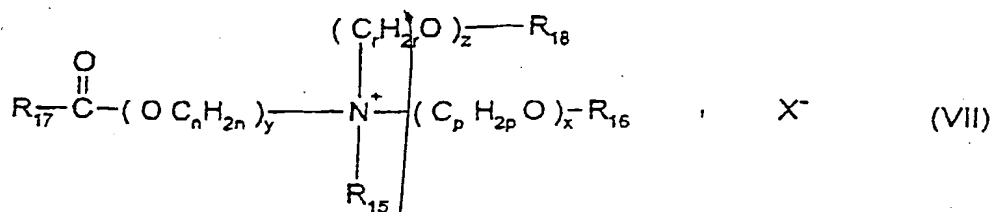
in which R_5 represents an alkenyl or alkyl radical comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms which are for example derived from tallow fatty acids, R_6 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical or an alkenyl or alkyl radical comprising from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, R_7 represents a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, R_8 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, X is an anion chosen from the group including halides, phosphates, acetates, lactates, alkyl sulfates and alkyl or alkylaryl sulfonates.

C) - the quaternary diammonium salts of formula (VI):



in which R_9 denotes an aliphatic radical comprising from about 16 to 30 carbon atoms, R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , which are identical or different, are chosen from hydrogen or an alkyl radical comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and X is an anion chosen from the group comprising halides, acetates, phosphates, nitrates and methyl sulfates. Such quaternary diammonium salts comprise in particular propanetallowdiammonium dichloride.

D) - the quaternary ammonium salts containing at least one ester functional group of the following formula (VII):



in which:

- R₁₅ is chosen from C₁-C₆ alkyl radicals and C₁-C₆ hydroxyalkyl or dihydroxyalkyl radicals;
- 5 - R₁₆ is chosen from:
 - the radical $\text{R}_{19}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-$
 - the linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₂₂ hydrocarbon radicals R₂₀,
 - the hydrogen atom,
- 10 - R₁₈ is chosen from:
 - the radical $\text{R}_{21}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-$
 - the linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₆ hydrocarbon radicals R₂₂
 - the hydrogen atom,
- 15 - R₁₇, R₁₉ and R₂₁, which are identical or different, are chosen from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₇-C₂₁ hydrocarbon radicals;
- n, p and r, which are identical or different, are integers having values from 2 to 6;
- 20 - y is an integer having a value from 1 to 10;
- x and z, which are identical or different, are integers having values from 0 to 10;
- X⁻ is an organic or inorganic, simple or complex anion;

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with the proviso that the sum $x + y + z$ has a value from 1 to 15, that when x has a value of 0, then R_{16} denotes R_{20} , and that when z has a value of 0, then R_{18} denotes R_{22} .

5 10. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said cationic surfactant is chosen from behenyltrimethyl-ammonium salts, stearamidopropyl dimethyl (myristyl acetate) ammonium salts, Quaternium-27 and Quaternium-10 83.

11. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said cationic surfactant is present in concentrations ranging from 0.2 to 10% by weight relative to the total 15 weight of the composition and preferably from 0.5 to 5% by weight and more preferably between 1 and 3.5% by weight.

12. The composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the 20 cosmetically acceptable medium consists of water or a mixture of water and at least one cosmetically acceptable solvent.

13. The composition as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the cosmetically acceptable 25 solvents are chosen from the group consisting of monoalcohols, polyalcohols, glycol ethers and mixtures thereof.

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14. The composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, at least one additive chosen from thickeners, perfumes, pearlescent agents, preservatives,

5 sunscreens, anionic or nonionic or cationic or amphoteric polymers, proteins, protein hydrolysates, linear or branched chain C₁₆-C₄₀ fatty acids such as 18-methyleicosanoic acid, hydroxy acids, vitamins, panthenol and fatty esters.

10 15. The composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that it is provided in the form of a shampoo, conditioner, composition for permanent waving, straightening, dyeing or bleaching the hair, rinse-out composition to be applied between
15 the two stages of permanent waving or hair straightening, or washing composition for the skin.

16. The use of a composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15, as or for the manufacture of a composition to be applied before or after any hair
20 treatment such as shampooing, dyeing or bleaching, permanent waving or hair straightening.

17. A method for treating keratinous materials, such as hair, characterized in that it consists in applying to said materials a cosmetic
25 composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, and then in optionally rinsing with water.

18. The use of a composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15 for protecting keratinous

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materials, in particular the hair, from physical or
chemical attacks.

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